

*How Does Your Garden Grow?*

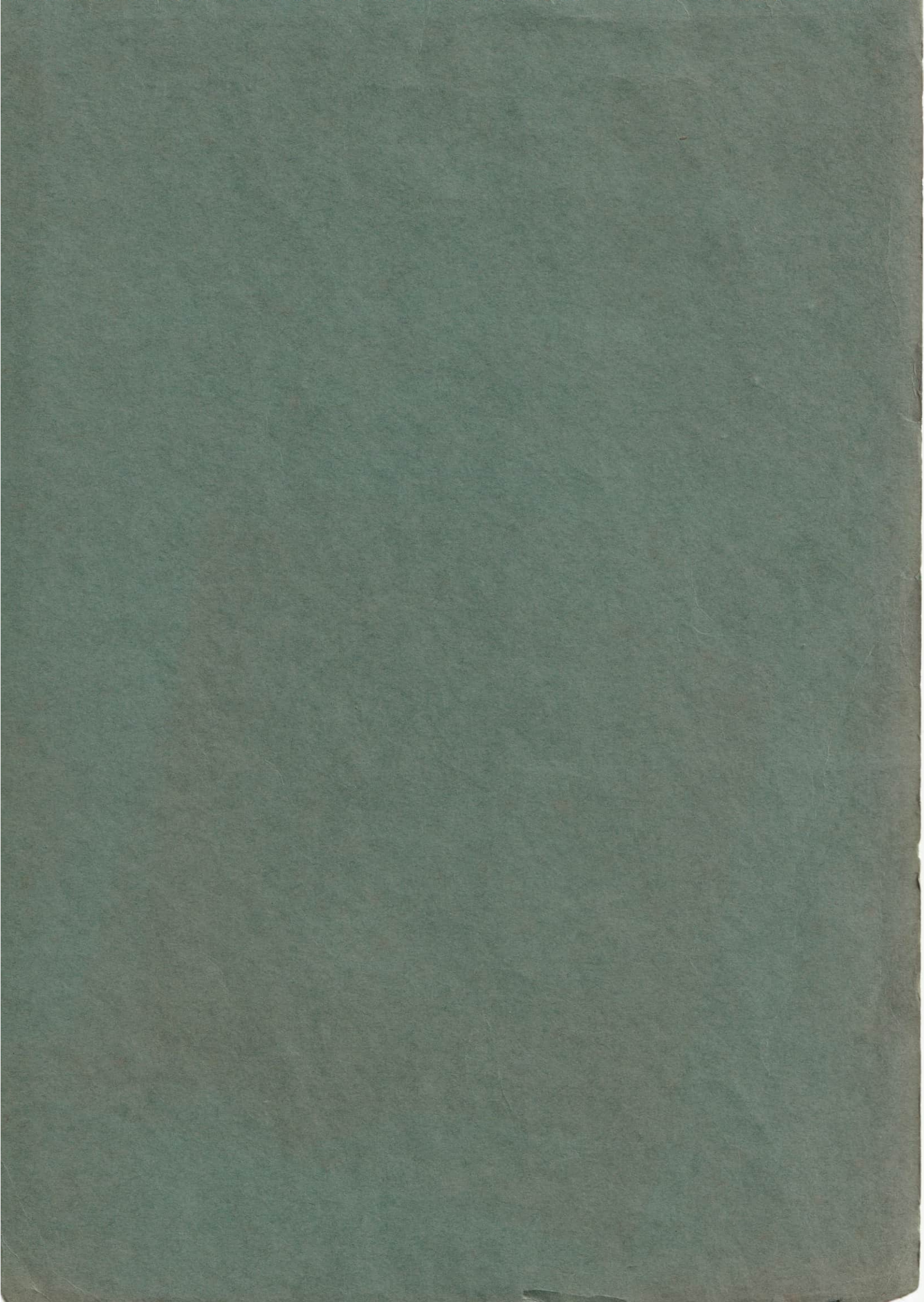


A Series of Newspaper Advertisements

Published by

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Mobile's famous Azalea Trail and other magnificent flowers constitute one of the city's most valuable assets. To further the beautification of Mobile, and for the information of Mobile's flower lovers, this bank publishes in one of its Sunday ads each month an article by H. P. Loding, D. Sc., on the proper care and planting of flowers and shrubs during that month in Mobile and vicinity.

# How Does Your Garden Grow?

## SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE FLOWER-MINDED

By H. P. Loding



BEGONIA

**D**URING midwinter, gardening largely is confined to the indoor type and, with proper care, much can be accomplished to add beauty and pleasure to the home with potted plants of various kinds.

For success with house plants, the most important element—and one which frequently is lacking—is the proper amount of humidity in the air. Humidifiers on radiators, heaters and steam pipes rarely are sufficient, but easily can be supplemented with ornamental water containers such as aquariums, fish bowls, vases or jardinieres.

Jardinieres used as plant containers should have moist sphagnum moss in the bottom for flower pots to rest upon; this will absorb any excess water from the plant, and permit it to evaporate.

All foliage plants with smooth (not hairy) leaves are benefited greatly by an occasional sponging or syringing, using cool water with a sponge or atomizer.

Plants, like human beings, thrive best in ample light and fresh air. Drafts should be eliminated, and a fairly even temperature, ranging from 50 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, maintained. Any sudden temperature change—or change from sunlight to shadow—should be avoided.

The amount and frequency of watering will, of course, vary with the air condition; and with requirements of different kinds of plants. Usually plants with fleshy leaves or with heavy, leathery leaves, are able to withstand drought longer than plants with thin and frail leaves.

After Poinsettias have passed their prime, they may be left in the pot practically without attention in a cellar or outhouse free from frost until they can be planted in the garden next Spring. Cyclamen can be kept blooming for a month or more in a moderately cool and light room, but must not suffer for lack of water. Begonias require less water. Primroses thrive best in an airy, cool place; St. Paulias need a warm room. Geraniums and Pelargeniums are ideal for a sleeping porch.

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## SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE FLOWER-MINDED

By H. P. Loding



ROSES

WITH favorable weather conditions, garden activity will be at its height during the next two months, and success will largely depend upon early preparation. ¶ Rose-gardens will need attention at once. Rose bushes and rose vines should be carefully pruned, and stock which has outlived its usefulness should be replaced. Rose beds should be properly and adequately fertilized. An application of barnyard manure mixed with bonemeal, lightly spaded into the soil without injury to the roots, will start roses going. Pruning of roses should be done about the middle of February. All dead wood, weak wood, and wood two years or more old should be removed and last summer's growth should be cut back to four good eyes on Hybrid Perpetual and Hybrid Tea Roses. Tea Roses and Polyantha Roses need less severe pruning, and

Hardy Climbers need only such pruning as will keep them within their prescribed bounds. ¶ Sweet Peas will need support and the winter blooming annuals—now well established—will respond to light applications of a complete fertilizer at intervals of two weeks. ¶ Gladiolus and Tuberose corms may be planted during the latter part of February. Gladiolus corms should be planted four inches deep and Tuberose about two inches deep. ¶ Seedlings of Cornflowers, Poppies, Larkspur, Dianthus, Phlox, etc., frequently come up entirely too thick and should be judiciously thinned so as to give the individual plants a chance to do their best. An occasional dusting of nine parts of sulphur (Flowers of Sulphur) and one part of Arsenate of Lead is beneficial in preventing wilt, stemrot and leaf-eating insects. ¶ Summer blooming annuals such as Zinnias, Balsams, Marigolds, Nasturtiums, Asters, Scabiosa, etc., may be started from seed during the latter part of February for early flowering. Many hardy perennials such as Phlox, Hollyhocks, Poppies, Matricaria, Dianthus, Physostegia, Gaillardias, Liatris, etc., may yet be divided or year-old plants purchased for summer blooming. After the blooms of Camellias are gone, and before the new growth appears, is the proper time to spray for the prevalent Tea Scale or Camellia Scale. Gardenias also require spraying now for White Fly.

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# How Does Your Garden Grow?

## SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE FLOWER-MINDED

By H. P. Loding



AZALEA

ROSE BUSHES are now making new growth, and a weekly dusting with nine parts of dusting sulphur and one part of arsenate of lead mixed with an equal amount of tobacco dust will help to prevent black spot, mildew and aphids.

Due to the dumping on the market of diseased stock, Rose Canker is becoming prevalent. This disease may be recognized by dead brown areas on the branches, resulting in continuous dieback. Infected rose bushes should be carefully pruned back to healthy wood, and diseased parts should be burned.

From the middle of March, tender annuals such as Zinnias, Balsams, Marigolds, etc., may be sown in the open and Ageratum, Petunias, Alternanthera, Salvias and Lantana plants large enough to transplant may take their permanent place in the garden.

The planting of Coleus, Hibiscus, Plumbage, Thunbergia, Dahlia, Amaryllis and Caladium should be postponed until the last of March or early April.

"Azalea Flower Spot" fungus (*Ovulinia azaleae*) is now showing up in its primary stage, and with warm and moist weather conditions the secondary limp blight stage may become epidemic. A recent Government Bulletin by Dr. Freeman Weiss gives little hope of practical control by spraying or dusting methods, except in small isolated plantings. The most promising control measures are summed up in the following quotation: "After the flowers have all fallen it would be advisable to rake off and burn the loose combustible mulch, then lay down a fresh mulch of leaf mold from a woodland or compost pile. On top of this a layer of oak leaves, two or three inches thick, may also be placed. In case the mulch was not renewed after the flowering period, it may not be too late to do so during the winter at least a month before flowering begins; but ordinarily early renewal is preferable as there is a better chance of collecting all the fallen flowers, and with them the 'sclerotia' (overwintering spore body) before they become buried in the soil."

To warrant the expense and trouble of using this method it is, of course, necessary that everybody owning an Azalea bush co-operate, as one single bush may reinfect all others within a wide area.

  
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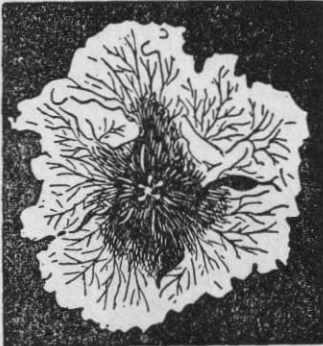




# How Does Your Garden Grow?

## SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE FLOWER-MINDED

By H. P. LODING, D.Sc.



Mobile's famous Azalea Trail and other magnificent flowers constitute one of the city's most valuable civic asset. To further the beautification of Mobile, and for the information of Mobile flower lovers, this bank will publish in its ad on the first Sunday in each month an article by H. P. Loding, D.Sc., on the proper care and planting of flowers and shrubs during that month.

THE CITY OF MOBILE—"The Charm Spot of the Deep South"—is a year-round delight with seasonal variation and there is no reason why this should not apply to Mobile County as a whole. With a continuance of the existing spirit of co-operation among Garden Clubs, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the city officials and citizens, that may be an accomplished fact within a few years.

With April the spring bulbs and annuals will be on the wane and should be replaced as the season advances. Beds should be dug over and re-fertilized before planting. For borders Petunias, available in nearly all colors, Ageratum and Alternanthera may take the place of Pansies, Daisies, Nasturtium and Phlox. Between borders and shrubs there will be room for such plants as Salvias, Zinnias, Lantanas, Marigolds, Balsams, Hibiscus, Plumbagos, Coleus, Acalypha, Caladium, Gladiolas and Dahlias.

Chrysanthemums for fall blooming may be planted and also seeds for later plantings of Zinnias, Marigolds, Terenias, and Vinca.

February plantings of Snapdragons and Stocks may need staking.

Bulbs such as Narcissus and Hyacinths must be left until foliage dies so as to mature the bulbs.

It is advisable to gather and burn all withered blooms of Azaleas, on or under the bushes. Fleshy deformed swelling on Azalea leaves and twigs caused by Exebasidium fungus should also be picked and burned. A weekly and forceful syringing of Azaleas will usually keep red spiders under control. A silvery gray color of Azaleas indicates the presence of either thrips or lacebugs and a competent inspection is advisable before the trouble becomes serious. Mildew and Aphis may appear this month on Crepe Myrtle. For the former spray with soluble sulphur or lime-sulphur, for the latter nicotine sulphate or pyrethrum extract.

Roses are now in full bloom; cut them with long stems, leaving two leaves on the remaining stem—this will promote better blooms and less blind wood. For blackspot on roses dust with a mixture of nine parts of sulphur and one part of lead-arsenate.

  
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# How Does Your Garden Grow?

## SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE FLOWER-MINDED

By H. P. LODGING, D.Sc.



HYDRANGEA

**D**URING May the Hydrangeas will come in a good second to Azaleas in the beautification of Mobile. The Hydrangea is another fine flowering shrub typical of the South where it is hardy. Hydrangea hortensis variety otaksa with heavy, glossy, deep green foliage and large panicles of flowers (ranging in color from pink in neutral to slightly alkaline soil, to lavender and deep blue in acid soil) is superior for outdoor culture to the newer French and German varieties. Like Azaleas, they thrive and bloom equally well in sunny or semi-shaded positions. They are heavy feeders and need plenty of water during the blooming and growing season, with a weekly forceful syringing to prevent the ravages of red spider.

All tender plants such as Hibiscus, Malvaviscus, Crotons, Caladiums, Heliotropes, Zinnias and many others may be safely planted now, as well as a late planting of Gladiolus corns.

The lawn, whether Bermuda or Carpet Grass, will likely need attention with seed in bare spots and an application of a well balanced fertilizer such as Vigoro at the rate of three to four pounds per hundred square feet of lawn, with a good watering before and after.

The new growth of Camellias, Japonica and Sasanqua will soon be hardened enough to withstand a summer spray of Volk and Black Leaf Forty, if scales are present.

The second brood of Azalea Lacebugs will probably appear early this month and after preliminary tests of several insecticides Dr. L. L. English recommends the use of Florida Volk one part to one hundred parts of water with an addition of one and one-half ounces of powdered Derris per five gallons of spray. The underside of the leaves must be well covered with the spray.

Porch and window boxes will need refilling with new, rich soil and plants. For shaded positions Ferns with Caladiums Coleus or Crotons for color are most satisfactory. In full sun Geraniums, Petunias, Lantanas, Vincas and many other flowering plants will give good results. The new double pink Petunia World Beauty is an exceptionally fine plant for either box or bedding purposes.

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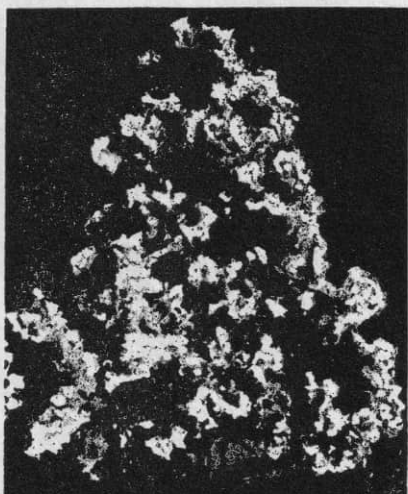


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## SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE FLOWER-MINDED

By H. P. LODING



CRAPE MYRTLES

AFTER about two months of beauty the Hydrangeas will surrender their place in the sun to the Crape Myrtles. The botanical name of this handsome shrub or small tree was given by Linnaeus in honor of his friend, Magnus Lagerstroem, and he called it *Lagerstroemia indica*, which may account for the common name, "ladies' streamer," given it in some parts of the country. It comes in various shades, white, lavender, pink and a deep watermelon red. This last variety is in every way the most desirable, having much larger panicles of flowers of the most brilliant color. Like our watermelon pink Azalea, it might well be named the Pride of Mobile, because, to the best of my knowledge, this is where it originated.

After the blooms of the Hydrangeas are past their prime will be the proper time to prune them back somewhat, the weaker limbs more severely; this also applies to Wax Privet, Pittosporum and other spring blooming shrubs. Photinia glabra must be trimmed occasionally to insure new red growth.

Beds in which spring annuals like Larkspur, Poppies, Centaurea, etc., have withered and died prematurely from a soil fungus should be well cleaned and the old plants burned, after which the soil should be treated with a sprinkling of either Bordeaux or a mixture of five parts of lime, five parts of sulphur and one part of arsenate of lead and raked into the top soil before planting with new summer annuals.

To extend the blooming season of annuals the old flowers should be removed before going to seed.

Flower buds showing on Chrysanthemums before September must be removed and not allowed to develop, as they will never amount to anything. A fertilizer rich in nitrogen will promote foliage growth and help to prevent the early development of buds.

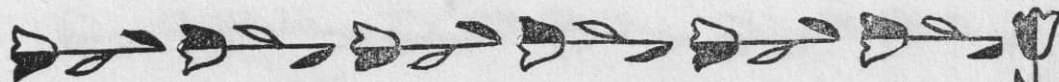
Of the more outstanding, typical southern shrubs beautifying Mobile in June the following may be mentioned: Nerium oleander, Parkinsonia aculeata, Cassia floribunda and Vitex agnus-castus or Chaste tree.

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# How Does Your Garden Grow?



LANTANA

## SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE FLOWER-MINDED

By H. P. Loding

**G**ARLANDS of the Mexican Vine, Rosa de Montana or San Miquelita and botanically known as *Antigonon leptopus* will be draping arbors, pergolas and porches all over Mobile during July and until Fall. It is a lovely gracefully climbing pink vine, which adds greatly to the charm of the deep South, where it is hardy. It is killed to the ground in winter; but will be back in bloom by midsummer. It needs a sunny position, and is easily grown from seed or from pot-grown plants; but is hard to transplant successfully from open ground.

Along with this, Crape Myrtle, Hibiscus, Plumbago and Lantana will be in full bloom and there need be no lack of color. This last named plant is not appreciated here in Mobile as much as it deserves, largely because the common orange variety is seen growing wild everywhere and is classed as a weed, yet the many new varieties in solid yellow, pink, red and lavender blooming profusely all summer are well worth the slight amount of attention they need. The trailing lilac and lavender variety is unsurpassed for urns, porch boxes and hanging baskets.

Azaleas will be forming flower buds and hereafter no fertilizer should be applied.

Poinsettias are growing rank and lanky and it is advisable to cut them back this month so as to make them more bushy with more flower bracts to come.

After the petals of the Crape Myrtles have dropped, this season's growth should be cut half way back, so that, instead of seedpods forming, new growth will be induced with a second crop of flowers.

July usually brings a rainy season, when the air is laden with humidity and the cooling effect of evaporation is greatly minimized. The top soil gets overheated and everything goes limp. This is the critical time for most herbaceous perennial plants like Hollyhocks, Perennial Phlox, Asters, Shasta Daisies, Pinks, etc., and summer vacationers should take care to see they are protected. Good drainage, a light, porous non-decomposing mulch (peat, oak leaves or pine straw) are needed to shade the ground, and if possible a cheesecloth overhead shading will greatly relieve the dangers to the flowers.

  
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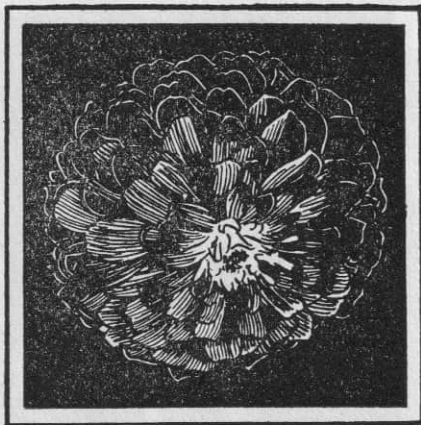
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ZINNIA

## SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE FLOWER-MINDED

By H. P. Loding

**"L** AISSEZ FAIRE" is generally the slogan for garden work in August; it is in between seasons, too late to plant summer flowers and too soon to start the winter flowers, and so it is mostly routine work to keep alive and thriving the plants we have. There is yet time, however, to sow or plant such quick-growing annuals as Zinnias, Balsams, Cosmos and Marigolds for a fine crop of flowers before frost sets in.

Gladiolus bulbs yet left in the ground should be dug, dried, well dusted with a mixture of sulphur, bordeaux and tobacco dust to control thrips and rot and stored for the winter in a dry and frostproof place. Easter lily bulbs may also be dug and separated, after which they should be replanted at once. Plant them fairly deep, six to eight inches.

Chrysanthemums will well repay all the care given from now on in the way of shallow cultivation, fertilization and tying; pinching must be discontinued after the middle of August. Aphids, lacebugs and mealybugs are the main insects affecting chrysanthemums and any of these can be controlled by the use of the following spray: one ounce of soap dissolved in a gallon of warm water to which add two teaspoons of Black Leaf Forty.

Dahlias are likely to need an application of a complete commercial fertilizer, but keep it away from the plant by at least two inches; tall and spindly plants should be cut back so as to produce new shoots and fine flowers during the cool autumn days. Dahlias thrive best in slightly alkaline soils, and a sprinkling of lime may be needed now and then.

Tea, Hybrid Tea and Polyantha roses will produce a fine cut of fall flowers if pruned (not too severely) during the latter part of August or early September and at the same time given an application of fertilizer; a small amount of equal parts of Vigoro and Bone Meal scratched into the soil every two weeks usually brings results.

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# How Does Your Garden Grow?



PANSY

## SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE FLOWER-MINDED

By H. P. Loding

**W**ITH COOLER and less humid weather in sight it is time to begin preparing for the winter and spring show of annuals and perennial plants.

For those who expect to grow their plants from seed the following seeds should be planted during the month: Pansies, Bellis Daisies, Candytuft, Sweet Allyssum, Calendula, Phlox, and Pinks, also seeds of such perennials as Hollyhocks, Gail-lardias, Sweet Williams, Poppies, Shasta Daisies and Carna-tions for next year's blooming.

During warm weather the small seedlings need careful attention. The soil used should be light and porous; a mixture of ordinary garden soil, leafmold and builder's sand in equal proportions, well mixed and pulverized, will answer the purpose.

Three inches of soil in a raised coldframe facing north and with three or four inches of headroom should be provided for requirements of several hundred plants. For smaller quantities shallow wooden flats, bulb pans or shallow flower pots are convenient, as they may be moved about for protection as conditions may require.

The soil must be raked smooth and level, well firmed by pressure with a board or brick and moistened about half an hour before sowing, which may be done in rows or thinly broadcast. The seeds should be spaced at least one-eighth of an inch apart, then covered with finely sifted soil or sand to a depth of three times the thickness of the seed and watered down with a fine sprinkler. It may be well to cover the soil with a moist burlap sack for the first few days, but this must be removed as soon as germination can be noticed.

The small seedlings must be protected against hot sun and heavy rain and transplanted as soon as they can be conveniently handled. The danger of ants carrying away the seed before germination may be prevented by rubbing the seeds in a pinch of dry powdered red lead.

Bulbs such as Roman Hyacinths, Paper White Narcissus and Freezias may be planted this month for extra early flowering.

  
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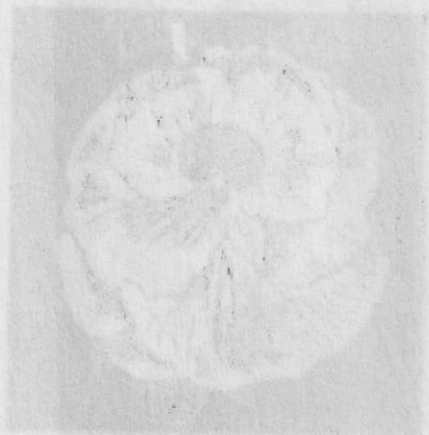
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HYACINTH

## SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE FLOWER-MINDED

By H. P. Loding

**D**URING fall and winter months the live-oaks and well-kept lawns add more to the civic beauty of Mobile than anything else, and October is the month in which to prepare for the winter lawn.

The Bermuda grass lawn must be cut and raked so as to loosen up and pulverize the top soil to a depth of one or one-and-one-half inches; all low places should be filled in so as to get a perfect level with just enough grade toward the front and sides for excess water to drain off.

The seed must be carefully and evenly distributed to assure an even stand without bare spots. A good plan for the inexperienced is to mix the seed with some white sand, as this will indicate just which part has been covered.

In recent years Italian Rye Grass has largely supplanted Orchard Grass for general use, but experience has shown that Italian Rye for various reasons is injurious to the Bermuda sod and that the old standby is preferable after all.

The amount of seed needed is approximately two pounds for 500 square feet or an area twenty by twenty-five feet. After the seed has been applied a light covering of well pulverized barnyard manure is scattered over the whole surface, which is then rolled down or tamped firmly and the lawn watered gently without flooding.

Many species and varieties of bulbs are now available for immediate planting such as Dutch Hyacinths, Narcissus of many kinds, Darwin Tulips, Lilies and Amaryllis. The following varieties of Hyacinths are recommended: L'Innocence (white), Lady Derby and Gertrude (pink), King of Blues (dark blue), Queen of Blues (light blue), and Grand Maitre (porcelain blue). For outdoor planting these should be planted at least four inches deep; for pot culture the bulbs are planted with the top even with the ground and after a thorough watering the pots are placed outdoors and covered with three or four inches of soil. In about three months the pips will begin to break through the soil, and they can be taken out, the covering removed and the plants exposed to light. Bulbs require lots of water, but care must be taken not to let water accumulate in the cup formed by the leaves as this will tend to rot the flower spike.

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Mobile's famous Azalea Trail and other magnificent flowers constitute one of the city's most valuable civic assets. To further the beautification of Mobile, and for the information of Mobile's flower lovers, this bank publishes in one of its Sunday ads each month an article by H. P. Loding, D. Sc., on the proper care and planting of flowers and shrubs during that month in Mobile and vicinity.

# How Does Your Garden Grow?



SWEET PEA

## SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE FLOWER-MINDED

By H. P. Loding

WHEN the rest of the country digs in for snow and ice, garden activities on the Gulf Coast take on a new start. After Halloween is the time for setting out such hardy winter annuals as Pansies, Bellis Daisies, Sweet Allyssum, Calendulas, Stocks, Phlox Drummondi, Dianthus and Candytuft. Beds for these—well dug and with a good proportion of barnyard manure mixed into the soil—should be prepared at once. A space of about eight inches between plants is recommended for these plants, except for

the fancy and taller growing varieties of Calendula, which need 12 inches, and the common bedding varieties, which require about 10 inches.

Hardy perennial plants such as Shasta Daisies, Phlox Decussata, Phlox Subulata, Phlox Divaricata, Coreopsis, Physotegia, Stokesia, Gaillardias, Sweet William, Poppies and Forget-Me-Not may also be planted now for spring blooming. This is also a good time to divide two- and three-year-old plants in this group.

November is a good month for sowing Sweetpeas, beds for which should be dug deeply and well fertilized; a two-foot depth is not too much, unless the water table reaches above this depth.

Some varieties of Camellia Japonica have a habit of forming too many buds clustered on the same twigs, resulting in few perfect flowers. If superfluous buds are removed before they become too large, the remaining buds will develop normally.

After the first killing frost, Tuberoses and Dahlia tubers should be dug and stored away for the winter. After freezing weather, Antigonon (Mexican Vine), Desmodium and Lantana can be cut to the ground and mulched.

All deciduous trees and shrubs and some evergreens may now be safely transplanted, provided care is taken to water copiously if the soil is otherwise too dry. Potential white fly infestation of Privet hedge in the spring may also be prevented by shearing the hedges now.

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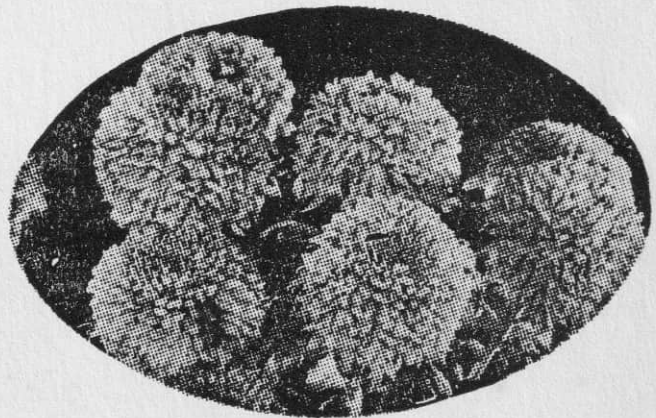
## SEASONAL HINTS FOR THE FLOWER-MINDED

By H. P. Loding

**D**URING December, we will probably experience short spells of freezing weather, when semi-hardy plants—both annuals and perennials—will need protection for a few days at a time. A nice pile of dry oak leaves or pine straw will come in handy for this purpose; excelsior is also quite satisfactory. In covering plants, such material should not be haphazardly piled on top of the beds, but must be carefully placed under and around the plants by hand.

Discarded cardboard cartons, from the pint size ice cream containers to the larger square boxes, are admirable for the temporary protection of single plants and small beds. Cloth, burlap, tarpaulins, etc., used for covering must not rest directly upon the plants but should be supported by frames or stakes. Coverings in all cases must necessarily extend all the way to the ground so as to prevent the cold air from getting in from below, else they do no good.

Under Mobile's climatic conditions, splitting of bark and other damage from freezing is rarely caused by the freezing itself, which is a gradual process. The damage and splitting of bark is caused by the sudden thawing which follows a quick rise of temperature on the morning of a clear day after a night's freeze. Contrary to the general belief, there is less danger of frost damage on the north and west



CHRYSANTHEMUMS

side. Frozen plants may frequently be saved by covering or shading them before the sun gets a chance to thaw them out. Frozen pot plants should never be moved into a warm room; they should be placed in a cool dark place where they can gradually thaw out.

Pansies, Bellis Daisies, Sweet Allyssum, Candytuft, Pinks, Phlox and Stocks need no protection; neither do the hardy or half-hardy perennials.

After Chrysanthemums have finished blooming or have been frozen back, the blooming stalks can be cut back to the ground and the plants given a mulch of dry leaves or pine straw until spring.

  
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